

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A composition in the form of a homogenous dry powder mixture consisting essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,
 - b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α -ketocarboxylic acid, and
 - c) at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline, theophylline and theobromine,
- and which is prepared by mixing or milling together said components to obtain the dry powder mixture,
- and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said membrane lipid comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in an amount of from 10% to 50% by weight.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the xanthine is caffeine and is present in an amount of from 10% to 80% by weight.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compounds is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a composition in the form of a homogenous dry powder mixture and which composition consisting essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,
 - b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α -ketocarboxylic acid, and
 - c) at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline, theophylline and theobromine,
- and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which method process comprises ~~either~~ mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder mixture.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution consisting essentially of at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α -ketocarboxylic acid, and at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline,

theophylline and theobromine, and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, ~~or as~~ and is prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a homogeneous dry powder mixture composition as claimed in claim 12 ~~which composition consists essentially of:~~

- ~~—— a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,~~
- ~~—— b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an α -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a β -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an α -ketocarboxylic acid, and~~
- ~~—— c) a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline, theophylline and theobromine,~~

~~and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration.~~

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A composition in the form of a homogeneous dry powder mixture which is prepared according to the method of claim 19.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a cream, gel or lotion for topical administration which comprises employing the homogeneous dry powder mixture composition of claim 12 in said cream, gel or lotion.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim ~~24~~ 12, wherein the xanthine is caffeine and the mean particle size of the powder composition is between 0.1 mm to 5 mm in diameter.